

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 50 No. 2

Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018

## UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S

### ◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP ◆

#### Monday-Friday

*Holy Communion with  
Morning & Evening Prayer*  
8:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., Chapel

#### In addition, on Wednesday

9:45 a.m. *Litany*, Chapel  
10:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### In addition, on Saturday,

10:30 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Chapel

#### Next Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:00 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church  
9:00 a.m. *Advent Family Service*, Chapel  
10:30 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church  
Noon *Christmas Pageant Rehearsal*  
Fellowship Hall, Cranmer Hall  
1:30 p.m. *Family Caroling & Tree Trimming*  
Green-Meldrim House

### ◆ PRAYER CIRCLE ◆

#### Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

6:15 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Cranmer Hall

### ◆ WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S ◆

#### Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m., *Holly Days Bazaar Wrap-up*  
Fellowship Hall, Cranmer Hall

Claus. Yet lurking within the secularized form popularized by the soft-drink company, is the real historical person, Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (a coastal town in what is now South-Western Turkey), one of the most venerated saints in the Christian world, celebrated for his kindness and generosity to those in need, to seafarers, and especially to children, whose annual feast fell this past week on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Despite all the consumer excess of Santa Claus, one can still detect the radiance of the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. In a sermon from which this essay freely borrows, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger laid out beautifully the truth latent in the “right jolly old elf” of Yuletide custom.

Nicholas of Myra is said to have been a participant in the Council of Nicea in 325, and helped to formulate the affirmation of the true Godhead of Jesus Christ. What was at stake here was the core of Christianity – whether Christianity was going to become just another religion, a futile attempt to bridge the gap between finite and infinite, or something genuinely new, faith in the Incarnation of God himself. As Cardinal Ratzinger puts it, “Was Jesus of Nazareth only a great religious man, or had God himself actually become, in him, one of us? So, ultimately, the question was this: Is God so mighty that he can make himself small; is he so mighty that he can love us and really enter our lives? For if God is too far away from us to love us effectively, then human love too is only an empty promise. If God cannot

## THE GOSPEL OF SANTA CLAUS

*This essay follows and freely borrows from a sermon of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, “The Light of a New Humanity”, collected in Seek That Which is Above (Ignatius Pres 1985).*

Christians are sometimes ambivalent, or even hostile, to the undeniably commercialized latter-day figure of Santa

**THE PARISH PAPER**  
**OF**  
**St. John's Church**  
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The Parish Paper of St. John's Church (USPS 887-960) is published weekly with a bonus for Christmas by St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. Periodicals postage paid at Savannah, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. John's Church, One West Macon Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

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**STANDING NOTICES**

The occasional Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Penance, Communion and Unction of the Sick, and the Office of Burial of the Dead are always available by appointment, at announced times, or as necessary. Please call the Church Office to notify the clergy if you or a loved one is in the hospital or hospice.

**VESTRY OFFERING CHAIRMEN**

8:00 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
10:30 a.m. Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan, Sr.

**USHER CHAIRMAN**

Mr. R. Scott Howard

**ACOLYTES**

8:00 a.m. Henry Osborne  
10:30 a.m. Jackson McClellan, Jake Perkins,  
Daniel Sills, William Sills, William Taylor,  
Malcolm Worsham and Wesley Worsham

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers at the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Mrs. William E. Hutchinson, Jr.  
And in loving memory of Josephine Kennedy Osborne by her family.

And in joyful and loving celebration of the birthday of Rence Schmidt by her loving husband, Peter Schmidt.

And in thanksgiving for and on the occasion of the birthday of Max Cooper Hamilton by Mrs. Patti Cooper

**CHANCEL SOCIETY**

Mrs. John G. Bradshaw, Jr.,  
Mrs. Jayne G. Holland, Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr., Mrs. Edward J. Derst III,  
Mrs. James C. Pedrick, Mrs. T. Herbert Guerry,  
Mrs. H. Emerson Thomas, Jr., Mrs. Wiley A. Wasden III, Mrs. Charles B. Compton, Jr.  
and Mrs. David Schultz

**COFFEE HOUR CHAIRMAN**

Mrs. Richard C. E. Jennings

**ROAMING GREETER**

Ms. Linda Howard Pounds

**SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH:**

Cranmer Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Middle School – David & Kalista Svihel**  
**High School – Rick Wright & Martin Sullivan**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:**

*God's Promise to David* with Fr. Dunbar  
CH3-Reading Room

*Collects Study* with Father O'Brien, Will & Mary Helen Burdell, Green-Meldrim House

*The Gospel According to John* with  
Jack Wray – CH3-Room 309

**MEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Tuesday Breakfast and *Colossians* with  
Father O'Brien, 6:45 a.m., Parish House

Thursday *Jeremiah* with Fr. Dunbar,  
7:00 a.m., CH3-Reading Room

**WOMEN'S WEEKDAY STUDY & DISCUSSION**

Thursday *A Glastonbury Romance* with  
Fr. O'Brien, 9:15 a.m., CH3-Reading Room

**YOUTH OF ST. JOHN'S**

**Food + Fellowship: Wed., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.** Join us at the Svihel's home for food, fellowship, and faith from 6-7:30 p.m. at 24 N Parkwood Dr. Savannah. RSVP's appreciated, but not necessary.

love, how can man be expected to do so? In professing faith in God's incarnation, therefore, it was ultimately a case of affirming also man's capacity to live and die in a human manner. The figure of St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, illustrates and symbolizes this connection".

As Ratzinger points out, "Nicholas is one of the first people to be venerated as a saint without having been a martyr. During the persecution of Christians, those who gave their lives for the faith had quite automatically become great examples of faith. When peace was concluded between Church and state, people needed new models. Nicholas impressed them as one ready to help others. His miracle was not that of great heroism in the face of torture, imprisonment, and death. It was the miracle of constant kindness in everyday life". His was the one miracle that could not be performed by magicians, demons (or, one might add, technicians and scientists) – the one unambiguously supernatural miracle – "the living out of faith [throughout one's] everyday life for an entire lifetime and maintaining charity". "In this man they understood what faith in God's Incarnation means; in him the dogma of Nicea had been translated into tangible terms". An ancient hagiographer compared Nicholas' sanctity to the morning star which receives its light from the rising sun. That image is also the meaning of Advent. "If we are to continually lighting the candle of humanity, giving hope and joy to a dark world, we can only do so by lighting them from the

light of God incarnate. This, at the deepest level, is the message of all Santa Claus figures: from the light of Christ we are to light the flame of a new humanity, caring for the persecuted, the poor, the little ones – this is the core of the legend of Saint Nicholas".

GGD

### CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

Sunday, **December 9<sup>th</sup>** will be the final day to donate unwrapped toys in the Toys for Tots collection bin in Fellowship Hall (1st floor, Cranmer Hall).

### ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CIRCLE

Will meet **Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (1st floor, Cranmer Hall). The Bible study will be The Lord's Prayer followed by thanksgiving and intercessory prayers.

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL/TREE TRIMMING

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Noon—1:15 p.m.* All children who will be performing in the pageant will meet in the Fellowship Hall in Cranmer Hall (along with their parents) for a light lunch after church. The children will change into costumes and do a run through in the church.

*1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.* Children, youth and their families are invited to trim the Parish House tree and sing carols in the Green-Meldrim House. Lemonade and cookies will be provided.

### CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Forms are now available online, at the back of the church, in Cranmer Hall, and at the Church Office for anyone interested in giving a poinsettia, wreath or garland as Christmas decorations for the Church. Poinsettias are \$30 each. Wreaths and Garlands are \$80 each. Send forms with a check (payable to **St. John's Chancel Society**) to the Church Office. Call (912) 232-1251 with any questions.

Light in our **Darkness:**

*Discovering the  
Hope of Advent*



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - SAVANNAH

**Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel**

**8:00 A.M. – HOLY COMMUNION**

COLLECT, EPISTLE & GOSPEL..... Prayer Book, page 92, 90  
*A continental breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following this service.*

**NURSERY** for birth - age 3 from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (*Cranmer Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor*)

**9:0 A.M. – FAMILY ADVENT SERVICE** (*Chapel*)

**9:30 A.M. – ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
*(Cranmer Hall, Green-Meldrim Library)*

**10:30 A.M.—MORNING PAYER, SERMON & CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

HYMN #484 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* ..... Truro  
 Sentences, Confession, Absolution and Lord’s Prayer..... Prayer Book, pages 3-7  
 Versicles and Responses ..... 7-8  
 VENITE (with Advent antiphon Hymnal #606).....9  
 Psalm #80 *Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come!* .....441  
 First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-12:end *The righteousness and peace of Christ’s kingdom*  
 ADVENT PROSE (*congregation may be seated*) .....10  
 Second Lesson: Romans 15:4 & St. Luke 21:25 ..... 92-93  
 BENEDICTUS Hymnal #638.....14  
*Children (K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) may exit following the Cross for Children’s Church.*  
 Apostles' Creed .....15  
 Versicles and Responses .....16  
 Collect of the Day .....92, 90  
 Collects for Peace and for Grace, other prayers ..... 17-20  
 Commemoration of the Faithful Departed  
 Welcome and Announcements.....Father Dunbar  
 HYMN #8 *O Word, That Goest Forth on High*.....Rex Glorioso  
 Sermon .....Father Dunbar

**OFFERING**

Sentences  
 Anthem: *Say To Them That Are of a Fearful Heart* .....Everett Titcomb  
 Presentation of Alms: Doxology #139, and Hymn #141 (verse 4)  
 General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) and Aaronic Blessing ..... 19  
 HYMN #5 *Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending* ..... Helmsley  
 VOLUNTARY *Saviour Of The Gentiles Come*..... Johann Pachelbel

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*Everyone is invited to attend the Coffee Hour in the Parish House immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service.  
 If you are a guest and visiting our Parish, please make yourself known..*

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**12:00 P.M. (Noon)—HOLY COMMUNION**